

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the indication of the allowability of Claims 23, 25 and 26, these claims have been amended to place them in independent form. It is submitted these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 20 calling for the connection channel to be oriented in the **direction** of the circulation contour of the flow circulation of the operating medium in the operating state between the pump and turbine blade wheels. This is not disclosed by GB 1,146,840 and to the contrary the orientation of the connection channel in the upper left hand portion is oriented in a direction opposite to the circulation contour of the flow circulation. In Fig. 1 of GB '840, the flow direction in the lower portion thereof below the axis of rotation is illustrated. However, due to the toroidal shape in the circumferential direction, the same flow direction occurs in the upper portion of the coupling. For illustration, the flow direction has been drawn in the attached copy of Fig. 1 of GB '840.

As can be clearly seen, the orientation of the opening is essentially from left to right as shown in Fig. 1 and is in the opposite direction of the circulation contour of the flow circulation. This means that the medium will not flow through the connection channel such that it is directed directly to the intermediate space between the casing and the outer surface of the blade wheels because the medium will impinge on the walls forming the connection channel and thereby divert the flow away from a direct flow into the intermediate space. This would result in a decrease in the velocity of the flow of the medium.

It is submitted that amended Claim 16 is not anticipated by GB '840 nor would the same be rendered obvious because of the opposite orientation of the connection channel in the cited reference as opposed to what is very specifically defined in amended Claim 16. It is

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therefore requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of Claims 16-19, 21, 22 and 27-30. However, if issues remain, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 260-460-1692.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc. Annotated Drawing Sheet 1
Replacement Drawing Sheet 1
Fig. 1 of GB '840
Return Postcard

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

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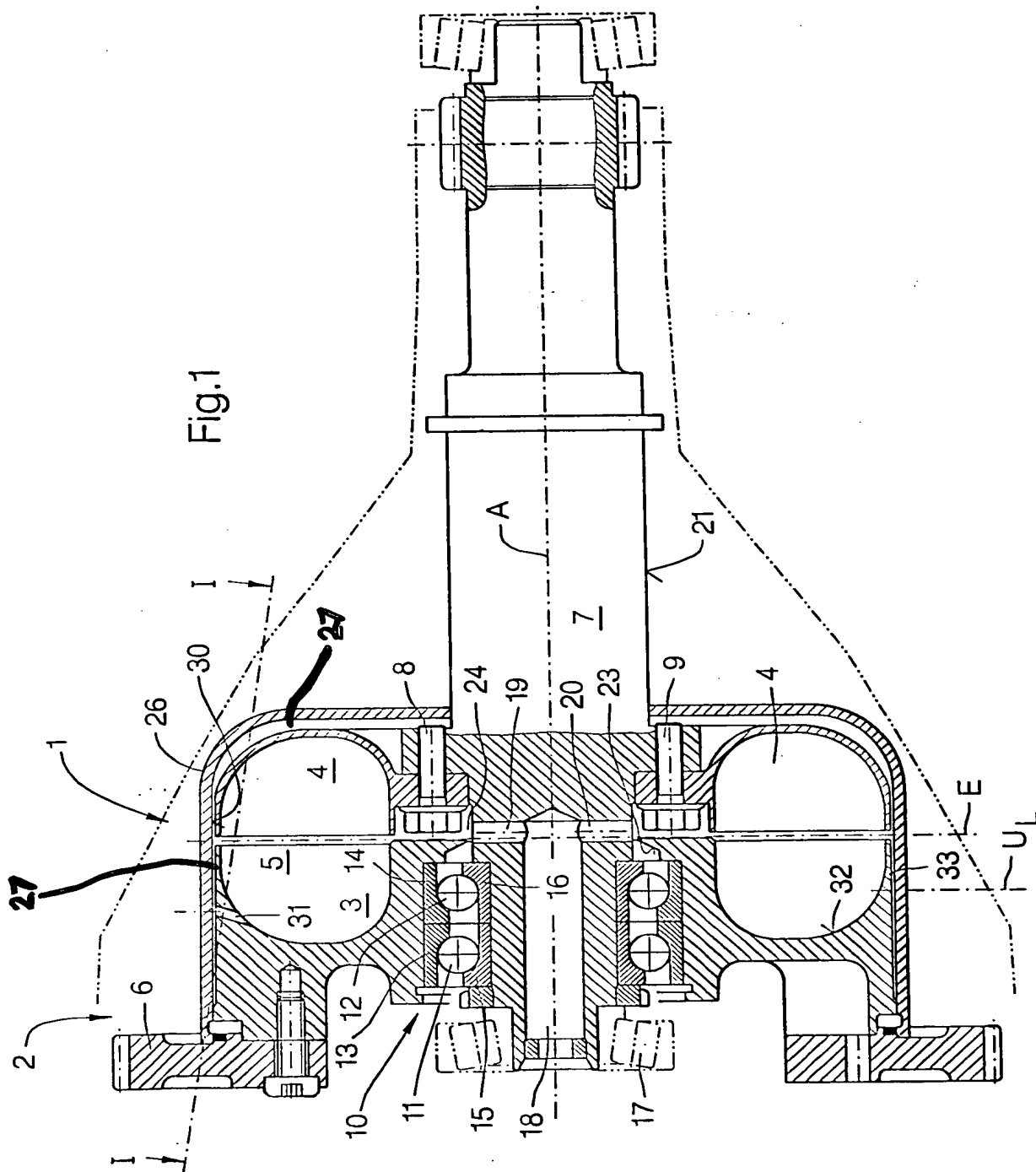
Name of Registered Representative

Signature

July 29, 2004

Date





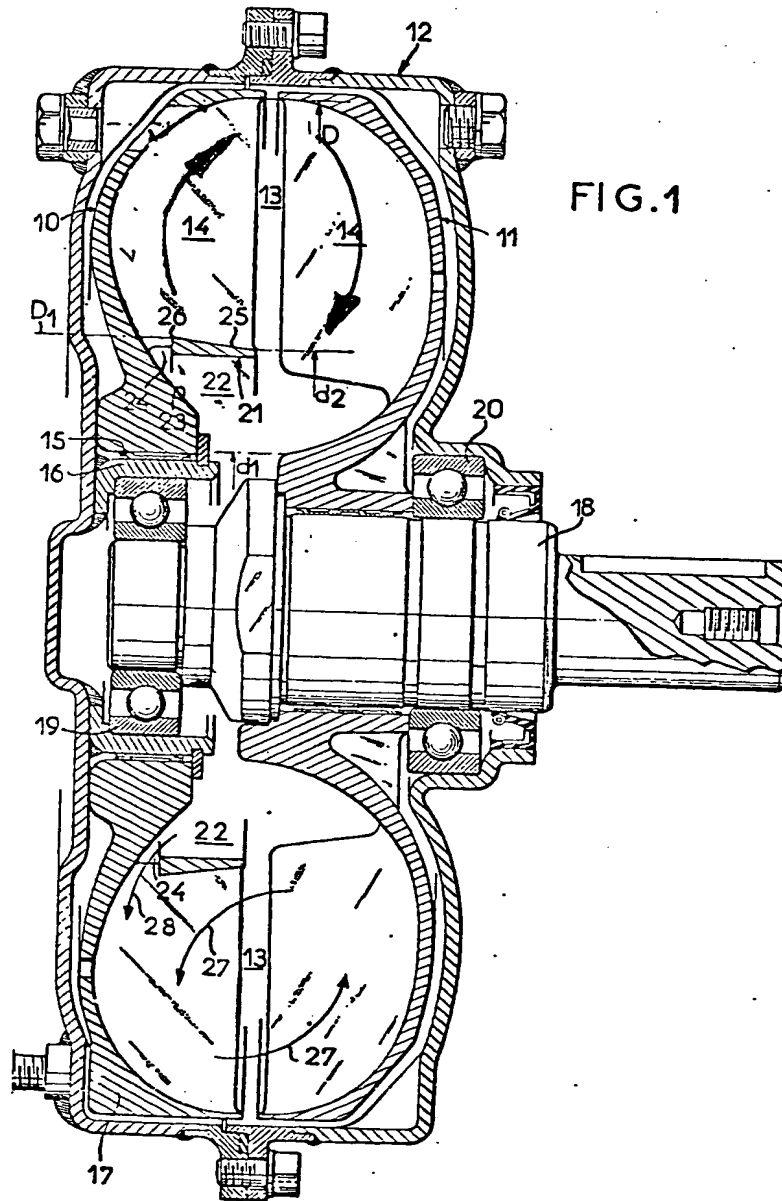


FIG. 1